

CLAIMS

1 A personal alarm system comprising:

5 a personal alarm signalling device adapted to be worn on a user's body comprising a user activatable transceiver means for transmission of an alarm signal, and

10 a user activatable responder device adapted to contact outside help via a telephone network in response to the alarm signal, the responder device being provided locally in the vicinity of the user to thereby reduce the power required for the alarm signalling device to contact the responder device,

15 the responder device being adapted to receive the alarm signal and to transmit a response signal to the transceiver after receipt of the alarm signal to inform the user of the receipt of the alarm signal,

20 the alarm signalling device comprising means for displaying the response signal to the user and interface means for receiving user data,

25 the transceiver means being adapted to transmit the user data to the responder device after receipt of the response signal and to receive responder data from the responder device, the interface means being adapted to provide the responder data to the user.

30 2 An alarm system according to claim 1 characterised in that the interface means comprises a sound receiving member and a sound producing member to provide two way communication via the alarm signalling device.

3 An alarm system according to claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the user data and/or responder data are sound or audio data.

35 4 An alarm system according to claim 3, characterised

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in that the interface means comprises the user display means.

5 An alarm system according to claim 3 or 4,
5 characterised in that the user display means is adapted to display the responder data.

6 An alarm system according to any of the preceding
claims, characterised in that the user data comprise the
10 user's voice and/or data relating to the user's physical condition.

7 An alarm system according to any of preceding
claims, characterised in that the transceiver means
15 comprises signal channel selection means for selecting a frequency or channel at which the transceiver means transmits the alarm signal.

8 An alarm system according to claim 7, characterised
20 in that the responder device comprises responder channel selection means for selecting the channel for receiving the alarm signal.

9 An alarm system according to claim 7 or 8,
25 characterised in that the responder device is adapted to transmit a selection signal for controlling the signal channel selection means, the transceiver means being adapted to receive a selection signal from the responder device for controlling the signal channel selection means.

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10 An alarm system according to claim 9, characterised
in that the responder device is adapted to control the
signal channel selection means in response to a reduced
signal quality on the selected channel.

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11 An alarm system according to any of claims 8 to 10,
characterised in that the responder channel selection means
continuously or periodically transmits a channel monitoring
signal for monitoring the quality of the transmissions
5 channel or frequency.

12 An alarm system according to any of the preceding
claims, characterised in that the user display means
comprises a visual display member and/or an audible display
10 member and/or a tactile display member.

13 An alarm system according to any of the preceding
claims, characterised in that the device comprises a range
monitoring means for monitoring the range between the alarm
15 signalling device and the responder device.

14 An alarm system according to claim 13, characterised
in that the range monitoring means are adapted to activate
the user display means if the signalling device is out of
20 the range of the responder device.

15 An alarm system according to claim 14, characterised
in that the range monitoring means are activatable by the
user.
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16 An alarm system according to any of the preceding
claims, characterised in that the transceiver means is
adapted to transmit an identification code to identify the
alarm signalling device from multiple alarm signalling
30 devices.

17 An alarm system according to any of the preceding
claims, characterised in that the alarm signalling device
is adapted to remotely operate devices such as doors and
35 appliances.

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18 An alarm system according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the responder device is adapted to contact outside help such as aid services.

5 19 An alarm system according to claim 18, characterised in that the responder device comprises means for signalling an alarm such as a visual alarm and/or audible alarm.

10 20 An alarm system according to claim 19, characterised in that the alarm signalling means comprises telephone dialling means for contacting outside help such as emergency services and/or telephone services.

15 21 An alarm system according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the responder device is connected to the telephone network.

20 22 An alarm system according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the responder device comprises telephone answering means for enabling the user to answer calls via the alarm signalling device.

25 23 An alarm system according to any of claims 16 to 22, characterised in that the system comprises one or more responder devices and one or more alarm signalling devices, the responder device signalling an alarm signal which corresponds to the identified signalling device.

30 24 An alarm system according to claim 23, characterised in that the system comprises an alarm procedure storage means for storing alarm procedures for each alarm signalling device, the alarm signalling means signalling an alarm in accordance with the alarm procedure for the identified alarm signalling device.

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25 An alarm system according to any of the preceding claims wherein the system may comprise means for locating the position of the alarm signalling device.

5 26 A method of receiving an alarm signal from a user comprising providing

 a personal alarm system comprising:

 a personal alarm signalling device adapted to be worn on a user's body comprising a user activatable transceiver means for transmission of an alarm signal, and

10 a user activatable responder device adapted to contact outside help via a telephone network in response to the alarm signal, the responder device being provided locally in the vicinity of the user to thereby reduce the power required for the alarm signalling device to contact

15 the responder device,
 the responder device being adapted to receive the alarm signal and to transmit a response signal to the transceiver after receipt of the alarm signal,

20 the alarm signalling device comprising means for displaying the response signal to the user and interface means for receiving user data,

 the transceiver means being adapted to transmit the user data to the responder device after receipt of the response signal and to receive responder data from the responder device, the interface means being adapted to provide the responder data to the user

 the method comprising:

 activating the alarm signalling device,

30 the responder device receiving the alarm signal and transmitting a response signal after receipt of the alarm signal,

 displaying the response signal to the user,

 transmitting the user data to the responder device
35 after receipt of the response signal and receiving

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responder data from the responder device, and
providing the responder data to the user.

27 A method according to claim 26, characterised in
that the responder device is adapted to contact outside
help directly such as aid services.

29 A method according to any of claims 26 to 27,
characterised in that the user data comprise voice data
and/or user health data.

30 A method according to any of claims 26 to 29,
characterised in that the responder means comprises
dialling means for dialling emergency services.

31 A method according to claim 30, characterised in that
the dialling means are adapted to continue dialling until
an emergency service is contacted.

32 A method according to any of claims 26 to 31,
characterised in that the user communicates with the
emergency services via the interface means.

33 A method according to any of claims 26 to 32,
characterised in that the transceiver means comprise signal
channel selecting means for selecting the frequency or
channel for transmitting the alarm signal, and the
responder device comprises responder channel selection
means for selecting the channel for receiving the alarm
signal, the responder device controlling the signal channel
selection means in response to a reduced signal quality
and/or interference on the selected channel, the method
comprising the step of selecting a different channel if the
transmission quality is reduced.

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34 A method according to any of claims 26 to 33,
characterised in that the responder device continuously or
periodically transmits a selection signal to monitor the
transmission quality of the transmission channel or
5 transmission frequency.

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